

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DPW-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 181

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JEC PARIS 5931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VN, PINT

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 44TH PLENARY SESSION MARCH 8,
1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SHARPLY-WORDED EXCHANGES OF
DENUNCIATIONS AND RECRIMINATIONS TOOK PLACE. THERE
WAS VIRTUALLY NO MENTION OF SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL
MATTERS, EACH SIDE HOLDING FAST TO PREVIOUS PROPOSALS.
THI (PRG) TRIED TO COMBINE A RECITATION OF ALLEGED
GVN ATROCITIES WITH A PLEA FOR AN EFFECTIVE
CEASEFIRE. PHONG (GVN) GAVE EXAMPLES OF PRG BAD FAITH
IN NEGOTIATIONS AND IN PRISONER EXCHANGES. IMMEDIATELY
AFTER READING HIS PREPARED STATEMENT PHONG SAID THAT
THE GVN WON'T PARTICIPATE IN THE USUAL INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS AS A SIGN OF PROTEST OVER THE PRG
FIRING ON AN ARVN HELICOPTER MARCH 7. HE PROPOSED
RECONVENING MARCH 15 BUT DID NOT AWAIT A PRG RESPONSE.
END SUMMARY.

2. PRG "AMBASSADOR" THI SPOKE FIRST. HE RE-EMPHASIZED
THE PRIMACY OF ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE
IN THE INTEREST OF ALLEVIATING THE SUFFERINGS OF THE
CIVILIAN POPULATION. THE GVN, THI ALLEGED, WOULD
NEITHER HAVE DARED NOR BEEN ABLE TO SABOTAGE THE
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CEASE-FIRES OF JANUARY AND JUNE, 1973 WITHOUT US

CONNIVANCE. THE US, ALLEGEDLY MASTERMING THE
CONTINUED WARFARE, HAD DOUBLED MILITARY AID TO THE
GVN AND HAD RAISED THE NUMBER OF DISGUISED US ADVISORS TO
"OVER 25,000". THE GVN WAS ONLY THE IMPLEMENT OF THE
US AIM TO IETNAMESE BLOOD WIOATTEMPT FORCING A

3. THI TOOK QUANG NGAI PROVINCE AS A CASE IN POINT.
ACCUSING THE GVN OF EVERYTHING FROM GENOCIDE TO
"BULLDOZING 500 ANCESTRAL TOMBS", THI CHARGED THAT
GVN ATROCITIES HAD INCLUDED RAPINE, LIVE BURIAL OF
CHILDREN, AND BURIAL OF AGED PERSONS UP TO THEIR NECKS
AS A FORM OF TORTURE. ALL THIS WAS REPETITION AND
IMITATION OF US MASSACRES IN THE SAME PROVINCE IN
1968-69, THI ALLEGED.

4. ON EXCHANGES OF PRISONERS, THI HELD THAT THE GVN
HAD BROKEN ITS WORD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, E.G. BY
FALSELY CLASSIFYING CERTAIN RETURNEES AS RALLIERS IN
ORDER TO IMPRISON THEM ANEW. HE DMANDED THAT THE GVN
RELEASE IMMEDIATELY THE "OVER 200,, POLITICAL
DETAINEES AND "15,000 PLAF PERSONNEL, SLILL HELD
CAPTIVE. IN CLOSING THI RETURNED TO THE HUMANITARIAN
URGENCY OF ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE AT
ONCE.

5. GVN DEPUTY CHIEF OF DELEGATION PHONG ACCUSED
THE PRG OF UNMITIGATED NEGATIVISM AND HYPOCRISY.
THE PRG PLACED PRIORITY EMPHASIS UPON RESOLUTION OF
MILITARY QUESTIONS IN THE POLITICAL TALKS AT LA
CELLE ST CLOUD AND UPON RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL
QUESTIONS WITHIN THE TWO-PARTY JOINT MILITARY
COMMISSION. THIS, PHONG CLAIMED, PROVED THAT THE
PRG WAS WHOLLY LACKING IN GOOD FAITH.

6. THE THIRD PHASE IN RETURN OF CAPTURED PERSONNEL
EXEMPLIFIED THE PRG REFUSAL TO ACT CONSTRUCTIVELY FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO PHONG.
WHILE THE GVN HAD CARRIED OUT ALL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES,
THE PRG STILL HAD NEITHER PROVIDED AN ACCOUNTING FOR
OVER 27,000 ARVN MISSING LISTED BY THE GVN, NOR
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SUBMITTED A PRG LIST OF THOSE MISSING FROM THE
COMMUNIST SIDE. NONETHELESS, THE PRG HAD NEVER
STOPPED ITS BITTER CONDEMNATIONS OF GVN PRISONER
RELEASE POLICY AS AN ALLEGED SABOTAGE OF THE
AGREEMENT. PHONG ALSO CONDEMNED HANOI FOR HAVING
PROVIDED NO ACCOUNTING OF OVER A THOUSAND US
PERSONNEL MIA.

7. IN CLOSING PHONG REMINDED THE PRG SIDE OF THE GVN PROPOSAL CULMINATING IN THE HOLDING OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS JULY 20. IMMEDIATELY AFTER COMPLETING HIS PREPARED REMARKS PHONG MADE AN IMPROMPTU PROTEST AGAINST THE MARCH 7 INCIDENT IN WHICH AN ARVN HELICOPTER, ENGAGED IN PRISONER RETURN MATTERS AND FOLLOWING AGREED FLIGHT CORRIDORS, WAS FIRED UPON BY PRG FORCES. PHONG SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THIS INCIDENT THE GVNDEL WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE USUAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION BUT CONSIDERED THE TALKS ADJOURNED UNTIL MARCH 15. (COMMENT: WHILE PHONG DID NOT WAIT FOR A PRG RESPONSE ON THE SCHEDULING QUESTION HE EXPECTS THE PRG TO CONCUR IN THE MARCH 15 DATE, AS HE TOLD US AFTER THE MEETING. END COMMENT.)

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